

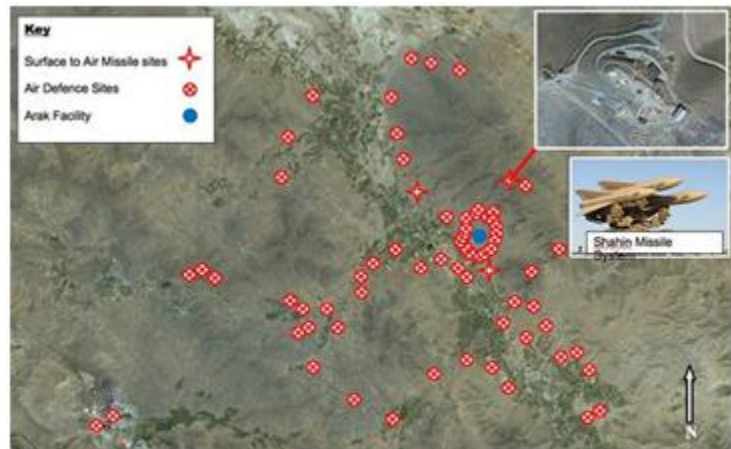
The National Security Working Group
Rep. Trent Franks, Working Group Chairman

Are the words "surprise" or "unstable" ever a good combination with "nuclear?" (Rep. Franks)

Recent images of Iran's heavily-guarded facility in Arak - barred from international inspectors for the last 18 months - show the site is active and could already be producing the plutonium necessary to make a nuclear weapon.

Digital satellite images clearly show water vapor emitting from force air coolers at the heavy-water production plant within the last three weeks. This striking image is a vivid demonstration that the regime has developed more than one apparatus for nuclear weapons production. And an International Atomic Energy Agency informant insists a second site that duplicates Arak's capabilities is still unidentified, waiting to "surprise" the Western world.

Iran informed the International Atomic Energy Agency that it will begin operating the Arak reactor in the first three months of 2014. Even with this overwhelming evidence of brash nuclear progress, new confidential proposals are on the table that offer Iran partial relief from economic sanctions while offering flexibility on demands that Iran restrict parts of its nuclear program.



Iran's nuclear facility in Arak is its most heavily defended site.

Iran is not the only country raising significant proliferation concerns.

Pakistan's unstable tactical nuclear efforts also offer a significant threat to our President's notions of a peaceful world without nuclear weapons. The expectation that Pakistan leadership could maintain absolute control of numerous mobile nuclear weapons is laughable at best, and should be a grave wake up call to the world.

It has been more than three years since the administration admitted the existence of Iran's secret uranium-enrichment plant Fordo - buried deep inside a mountain and surrounded by missile silos and anti-aircraft batteries. Could the world be due for another nuclear surprise in the near future?

The need to remain more vigilant towards bad actors in the Middle East has never been more important. We are seeing many examples of world nation's trying to undermine our global effort to stop Iran. Just a few days ago, an Iranian ship seized off the Yemeni coast was carrying sophisticated Chinese heat seeking antiaircraft missiles which could be used to make Iranian nuclear assets much more difficult to destroy.

We must draw a hard line on the nuclear negotiations and insist upon a nuclear-free Iran, while continue to apply pressure to countries with active nuclear programs but unstable leadership.

Space Hiatus Puts U.S. Space Exploration in Precarious Position (Rep. Cotton)

Following the final U.S.-launched mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in July 2011, the U.S. has relied on the Russian Soyuz spacecraft for transport to and from the space station—an international endeavor in which we have invested over \$100 billion. While private industry develops its own ‘taxi’ vehicle in cooperation with NASA’s Commercial Crew Development (CCDev) program, expecting completion in 2021, we rely on Russian vehicles as the only short-term option for U.S. human access to the ISS. Paying Russia—a nation with whom our diplomatic relations tend toward unhealthy competition—for this access should raise concern. In 2009, in order to permit such payments, Congress extended a waiver of the Iran, North Korea, and Syria Nonproliferation Act (P.L. 106-178 as amended) until July 1, 2016. This waiver is deeply troubling given Moscow’s economic, diplomatic, and military involvement with Tehran. Our current inability to send American astronauts into space without cooperation from the Russians is a critical threat to national security. In the interim, we must find a short-term solution to get us through until such time that private industry is able to carry astronauts to the ISS.

Obama Administration's Priorities Revealed in Aid Package to Egypt (Rep. Fleming)

Despite President Morsi’s recurring statements indicating a clear hostility towards the United States and her allies, the Obama Administration has once again resorted to its default plan of attack: throwing money at the problem.

Following the September 11, 2012 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Benghazi, many have rightly voiced concerns over the United States’ continued financial support for foreign governments whose citizens engage in such heinous crimes. However on March 4, 2013, just three days after the sequestration cuts began to take effect, newly appointed Secretary of State John Kerry authorized \$250 million in aid to Egypt’s Muslim Brotherhood controlled government. This \$250 million comes in on top of the \$1.55 billion in economic and military aid for the previous three fiscal years.

Last year, Congress passed provisions that military aid to Egypt be tied to its progress in protecting religious minorities, peacefully transitioning to democracy, and maintaining its peace treaty with Israel. Thus far, Egypt has failed to provide assurance on any of these fronts.

Specifically, recent reports of President Morsi’s anti-Semitic and anti-American comments, and

of increased religious persecution and civil rights violations perpetrated by his government, are cause for great concern. Although four F-16 aircraft have already been provided to Egypt, Congress should seek to delay the transfer of additional aircraft and other military assistance until we are sure of Egypt's government, its alliance with the U.S. and respect for Israel and its people.

[To the top.](#)

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